

BRIDGE ACROSS THE SABINE RIVER NEAR ORANGE, TEX.

FEBRUARY 12, 1925.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

MR. RAYBURN, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 11920]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11920), to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Sabine River at or near Orange, Tex., having considered the same, report thereon with amendment and as so amended recommend that it pass.

The bill as amended has the approval of the War and Agriculture Departments, as will appear by the letters attached and which are made a part of this report.

Amend the bill as follows:

Line 3, page 1, after the word "the" insert the following: "Act approved May 13, 1920, authorizing the."

Line 4, page 1, strike out "be, and it is hereby, authorized."

Line 6, page 1, after the word "River" strike out the rest of the line.

Line 7, page 1, strike out "tion" at the beginning of the line; after the word "Texas," insert "be, and the same is hereby revived and reenacted: *Provided*, That this act shall be null and void unless the actual construction of the bridge be commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date of approval hereof"; strike out the balance of the line.

Strike out lines 8, 9, and 10, page 1.

After line 10, page 1, insert a new section reading as follows:

SEC. 2. The States of Texas and Louisiana, or either of them, or any political subdivision or subdivisions thereof, within or adjoining which said bridge is located, may at any time acquire all right, title, and interest in said bridge and approaches thereto constructed under the authority of this act, for the purpose of maintaining and operating such bridge as a free bridge, by the payment to the owners of the reasonable value thereof, not to exceed in any event the construction cost thereof: *Provided*, That the said State or States, or political subdivision or divisions, may operate such bridge as a toll bridge not to exceed five years from date of acquisition thereof.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to revive and reenact the act entitled 'An act to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Sabine River at or near Orange, Texas.'"

WAR DEPARTMENT,
February 2, 1925.

Respectfully returned to the chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives.

The accompanying bill (H. R. 11920, 68th Cong., 2d sess.) to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Sabine River at or near Orange, Tex., is in the usual form adopted by Congress for such measures.

It is understood, however, that the bridge referred to in this bill is the same as that authorized by the act of Congress approved May 13, 1920 (Public No. 205, 66th Cong.). Under this act plans of the bridge were approved by the Secretary of War on October 28, 1920. So far as known to the department, the work on the bridge has not been commenced, and under the restrictions imposed by section 6 of the general bridge act of March 23, 1906, the franchise expired by limitation on May 13, 1923.

Under the circumstances, it is my view that it is preferable to amend the bill now under consideration so as to revive and reenact the original law in direct terms. A copy of the bill amended accordingly is inclosed herewith, and no objection is known to its favorable consideration.

JOHN W. WEEKS, *Secretary of War.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, February 4, 1925.

HON. SAMUEL E. WINSLOW,
*Chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
United States House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. WINSLOW: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 26 inclosing a copy of H. R. 11920 for report thereon and for such views relative thereto as the department might desire to communicate.

This bill would grant authority to the Orange Chamber of Commerce, of Orange, Tex., its successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Sabine River at or near the city of Orange, Tex. This proposed bridge would connect Louisiana Federal-aid project No. 43 with the city of Orange and thereby form a connection between important roads on the Federal-aid systems of Louisiana and Texas. It is the understanding of this department that this will be a free bridge. It is suggested for the consideration of your committee, however, that it may be well to provide in the bill for the approval of the plans and specifications for the bridge by the highway departments of the States of Louisiana and Texas and also to empower these two States to acquire the title and interest in said bridge upon the reimbursement of the Chamber of Commerce of Orange for the reasonable cost thereof. Aside from this the department has no other suggestion to offer at this time.

Sincerely,

HOWARD M. GORE,
Secretary.